

*N B: the Barbadoes Representation is
Printed in this book*

THE
BRITISH EMPIRE

IN

AMERICA,

CONSIDER'D.

In a SECOND LETTER,
From a Gentleman of BARBADOES, to his
Friend in LONDON.



LONDON,

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of the Honorable
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of Boston



T H E
B R I T I S H E M P I R E
I N
A M E R I C A, &c.

S I R,

Barbadoes, Septemb. 30. 1731.



HE Inhabitants of this Island having last Summer preferr'd an humble Petition to his Majesty, setting forth some Difficulties they laboured under in point of Trade, I took the Liberty to send you a Copy of that Petition, with my Thoughts thereon, and such Observations as I had then made relating to the Sugar Colonies, and left it to you to make such Use of them as you should think proper.

YOU thought them not unworthy the publick View ; and my Letter appear'd in Print under the Title of, The present State of the *British* Sugar Colonies consider'd, in a Letter from a Gentleman of *Barbadoes* to his Friend in *London* : And I have since learn'd from you, that the Publication of my Letter was attended with this good Consequence, that several *British* Gentlemen, and many of them Members of the Legislature, were thereby induc'd to inquire more narrowly than they had ever before done into the State of the *British* Sugar Colonies, and were thereby convinc'd of their Importance to the *British* Crown, and that they were worthy the Care of a *British* Parliament.

B

THIS

THIS Account, I must own, gave me great Pleasure: For it is my utmost Wish to be as serviceable to my Country as I can; and I know of no better Way of being so, in my present Circumstances, than by animating our worthy Patriots to save these declining Colonies from the Ruin now impending over them.

THE Affair mention'd in that Petition being afterwards transferr'd to the Parliament, a Bill soon pass'd the Lower House, whereby many of the Mischiefs complain'd of in the said Petition would have been remedied; but it seems the Opposition given to it in the Upper House by some of the Northern Colonies, and the Prorogation of the Parliament, which soon follow'd, prevented its passing into a Law. And it now lies in a State of Suspension till next Sessions, when doubtless it will be again promoted.

IN the mean Time our Assembly here have thought it necessary to make an humble Representation to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations on the Subject Matter of the Petition recited in my former Letter; and I now send you a Copy of it, with a few Remarks of my own thereon.

The Representation run thus, (*viz.*)

*To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for
Trade and Plantations;*

*The Humble Representation of the General Assembly of the
Island of Barbadoes;*

Sheweth,

“ **T**HAT the said Island has for many Years past been
“ a very profitable Colony to *Great Britain*, as well by
“ its Produce and Import of Sugar, Rum, Melasses, Cotton,
“ Ginger and Aloes, as by its taking off from thence great Quan-
“ tities

" titles of Woollen and other Manufactures, and Goods that
 " pay Duties to the Crown, (which by Means of the *Barbadoes*
 " Trade, are part consum'd among the Inhabitants of the said
 " Island, and other Part thereof are exported from *Great Bri-*
 " *tain* to *Africa*, and *Madera*, and the Northern *British* Colo-
 " nies for the Purchase of *Negroes*, Wine, Fish, and other Goods
 " for the Use of this Island, and thereby numberless Hands have
 " been employ'd in his Majesty's Kingdom and Territories, and
 " great Revenues have accrued to the Crown) ; and has also been
 " a great Support to his Majesty's Northern Colonies, and given
 " a very great and profitable Vent to their Fishery and other
 " Produce, as also to the Produce of *Ireland*, besides employing
 " in those several Trades great Numbers of Shipping and Seamen,
 " on which the Wealth and Safety of the *British* Nation so
 " much depend) ; and after all, has used to leave a considerable
 " Ballance in *England*, to the Benefit of the National Stock.

" THAT the Interest of this Island, and of all other his Maje-
 " sty's Sugar Colonies is closely united with that of *Great*
 " *Britain* ; and all those Sugar Colonies must ever be dependant
 " on it, and be supply'd from thence, because they have no
 " Trade or Manufactures which can interfere with those of
 " *Great Britain*.

" THAT within these few Years great Improvements have
 " been made by the *French* and *Dutch* in their Sugar Colonies,
 " and great and extraordinary Encouragements have been given
 " to them not only from their Mother Countries, but also from
 " a pernicious Trade carry'd on to and from *Ireland*, and the
 " Northern *British* Colonies : And the *French* do now from
 " the Produce of their own Sugar Colonies supply with Sugar
 " not only *France* itself, but *Spain* also and a great Part of *Ire-*
 " *land*, and the Northern *British* Colonies, and have to spare
 " for *Holland*, *Germany*, *Italy*, and other Parts of *Europe* :
 " And the *French* and *Dutch* Sugar Colonies have lately sup-
 " ply'd the Northern *British* Colonies with very large Quan-
 " tities of Melasses for the making of Rum, and other Uses,
 " and even with Rum of their own Manufacture, to the vast

“ Prejudice of his Majesty’s Sugar Colonies, as Rum is a Com-
 “ modity on which, next to Sugar, they mostly depend ; and
 “ have had in Return for such Sugar, Rum and Melasses, Ship-
 “ ping, Horses, Boards, Staves, Hoops, Lumber, Timber for
 “ Building, Fish, Bread, Bacon, Corn, Flower, and other
 “ Plantation-Necessaries at as easy Rates as his Majesty’s Sub-
 “ jects of the Sugar Colonies have : And the continual Supplies
 “ receiv’d by the *French* and *Dutch* from the Northern *British*
 “ Colonies, have enabled them to put on and maintain a greater
 “ Number of Slaves on their Plantations, and to enlarge their
 “ Sugar Works, and make new Settlements in new fertile Soils,
 “ and at the same Time cost little, being now purchas’d chiefly
 “ with Melasses ; which before the late Intercourse between the
 “ Foreign Colonies and the Northern *British* Colonies were
 “ flung away, as of no Value : And thus the *French* and *Dutch*
 “ Colonies are daily improving, while his Majesty’s Sugar Colo-
 “ nies are apparently declining ; and instead of supplying, as they
 “ used to do, *France* and *Holland*, and many other Parts of
 “ *Europe* with Sugar, are now almost confin’d to the home Con-
 “ sumption in *Great Britain*, and are, in a great Measure, ex-
 “ cluded from the Kingdom of *Ireland* and the Northern *British*
 “ Colonies ; who, instead of sending their Produce, as usual,
 “ to his Majesty’s Sugar Colonies, and taking Sugar and Rum
 “ in Return, do now often send it directly to the foreign Sugar
 “ Colonies, in Exchange for the Produce of those foreign
 “ Colonies : And whenever they do send their Produce to the
 “ *British* Sugar Colonies, they insist upon being paid for it in
 “ Cash ; which they export to, and lay out among the foreign
 “ Sugar Colonies in the Purchase of the very same Goods that
 “ they formerly used to supply themselves with from his Maje-
 “ sty’s Sugar Colonies : To the enriching the foreign Sugar
 “ Colonies, and impoverishing his Majesty’s.

“ The Mischiefs arising to his Majesty’s Sugar Colonies from
 “ this Commerce (which is apparently in Derogation and Eva-
 “ sion of the fifth and sixth Articles of the Treaty of Peace in
 “ *America*, made between *England* and *France* in 1686.) are
 “ very

“ very many and evident, and will increase more and more if
 “ some effectual Stop be not put to it.

“ *MARTINIQUE* is now arriv'd to a very great Pitch of
 “ Prosperity and Power, and affords new Supplies of People for
 “ settling the neighbouring Islands of *Dominique*, *St. Vincent*,
 “ and *St. Lucia*; and *Guardaloupe*, *Grand Terre*, *Marigalant*,
 “ *Granada* and *Cayane* increase and flourish in Proportion; and
 “ on *Hispaniola* the *French* spread so fast as to become formidable
 “ to their Neighbours; whilst on the other hand, many of the
 “ Planters in the *British* Sugar Colonies, and particularly in this
 “ Island, have been, and daily are necessitated to forsake their
 “ ancient and well-built Estates, and shelter themselves in
 “ *Pensylvania*, *New York*, and other the Northern *British*
 “ Colonies.

“ THIS apparent Increase of the Riches and Power of the
 “ *French* Sugar Colonies, and Decrease of the Riches and Power
 “ of the *British* Sugar Colonies, is, in great measure, owing to
 “ the Commerce aforesaid, which is destructive to the *British*
 “ Sugar Colonies, but highly advantageous to the *French*; who
 “ thereby find a Vent not only for their Sugar, but also for
 “ their Rum and Melasses, (which formerly they flung away)
 “ and have these Supplies of Lumber, Horses and Plantation-
 “ Stores; without which they never could have enlarged or
 “ supported, nor can support their Sugar Plantations.

“ BESIDES the great Benefits the *French* receive from this
 “ Commerce, (which of itself alone must soon destroy the *British*
 “ Sugar Colonies) there are other Causes which contribute to
 “ make his Majesty's Sugar Colonies decline, and the *French*
 “ Sugar Colonies flourish.

“ THE *French* Sugar Colonies receive the greatest Encou-
 “ ragements from their Mother Country, and their Duties are
 “ less than ours.

“ THE

“ THE *French* King is daily sending Men to his Sugar Colonies, and pays their Passage thither, and maintains them there a Year after their Arrival.

“ HE encourages their Trade to *Guiney*, by giving a *Premium* for every *Negro* imported thither from *Africa*.

“ HE remits one Half of the Duty upon such Goods of the Produce of his Sugar Colonies as are brought Home in Return for such *Negroes*.

“ HE maintains the Fortifications in his Sugar Colonies.

“ HE permits *Spanish* Ships to trade with them, and particularly for Pieces of *Eight*, in Exchange for Flower and other Goods, which they get from the *British* Northern Colonies, in Return for their Sugar, Rum and Melasses.

“ HE permits them to Trade to the *Spanish* Islands of *Margueritta*, *Trinidado*, and *Porto-Rico*; and he allows them to send directly to the Ports of *Spain* Sugars of all Sorts, (except Raw or *Muscovado* Sugars); and also all other Goods of the Product of the *French* Islands in *America*, paying a Duty of One *per Cent.* only on Exportation, without first importing them into *France*; whilst, on the other hand, his Majesty's Sugar Colonies have no such Encouragements.

“ The Inhabitants of this, and all other his Majesty's Sugar Colonies, are oblig'd to carry their Sugars, and all other enumerated Goods, first into *Great Britain*, after paying in the Colonies where they are produc'd, (*Jamaica* excepted) a Duty of four and a half *per Cent.* in Specie on Exportation, before they can carry them any where else, (except to the *British* Colonies); and are oblig'd, upon exporting them afterwards from *Great Britain*, to leave in *Ireland* a Duty of near two *per Cent.* and are put to the Risque of a double Voyage,
“ besides

“ besides the Charge of it ; which amounts to not less than
 “ twenty *per Cent.* more.

“ HIS Majesty's Subjects of this and other his Sugar Colonies
 “ pay upwards of ten *per Cent.* more than the *French* and *Dutch*
 “ do for what Sugar is carry'd to his Majesty's Northern Colo-
 “ nies, and consum'd there : By which Means those Colonies
 “ are mostly supply'd with foreign Sugar, to the Prejudice of the
 “ Plantation-Duties, (being part of their aggregate Fund, which
 “ might otherwise be greatly increased) : And altho' the *French*
 “ and *Dutch* Subjects of the Sugar Colonies do so vend their
 “ Sugar, as well as their Rum and Melasses, to the Northern
 “ *British* Colonies ; yet the Subjects of his Majesty's Sugar
 “ Colonies are restrain'd from vending their Produce to the
 “ *French* or *Dutch* Colonies ; and at the same Time, his Ma-
 “ jesty's Subjects of the Northern *British* Colonies and *Ireland*
 “ have that Advantage.

“ AND the *French* are at Liberty to send their Sugars directly
 “ to *Ireland* without first importing them into *Great Britain* and
 “ paying a Duty there to his Majesty, which his Majesty's Sub-
 “ jects of the Sugar Colonies are oblig'd to do : And they are
 “ supply'd with Beef and other Provisions directly from *Ireland*
 “ on as easy Terms as his Majesty's Subjects are.

“ THESE and many other Advantages the foreign Sugar
 “ Colonies, and particularly the *French*, have over his Majesty's
 “ Sugar Colonies, and particularly this Island ; whom it has
 “ pleas'd the Almighty God in his good Providence to afflict
 “ lately in a more especial manner, by a most violent Tempest
 “ and Hurricane, which began on the 13th Day of this Instant
 “ *August*, and lasted all that and the succeeding Day with the
 “ utmost Fury, to the inexpressible Terror and immense Damage
 “ of the Inhabitants, who have had not only a great many of
 “ their Corn-Fields, Plantain-Walks, Fruit and Timber-Trees
 “ blown down, or torn up by the Roots, and their Canes
 “ damaged, but their Dwelling-Houses, Wind-Mills, Boiling-
 “ Houses, and other their best and most substantial Buildings,
 “ some

“ some of them wholly demolish’d, and others overfet, rent,
 “ uncover’d, or otherwise greatly damnify’d: And so general
 “ has the Calamity been, that there is scarce a Person throughout
 “ the whole Island but who has received a considerable Loss by
 “ this dreadful Storm; the Consequences of which are still more
 “ grievous, for that there is not in this Island (nor has been here
 “ for some Years since, that pernicious Trade between the Nor-
 “ thern *British* Colonies and the Foreign Sugar Colonies began)
 “ Lumber sufficient to repair a tenth Part of the Buildings
 “ damag’d by this Tempest.

“ THIS Scarcity of Lumber is one of the many mischievous
 “ Effects of that Trade, and great is the Number of our poor In-
 “ habitants, who now have no Place to lay their Heads in, and
 “ lie expos’d to all the Injuries of the approaching rainy Season,
 “ for Want of those Northern Supplies which our Neighbours
 “ the *French* are plentifully furnish’d with: So great is our
 “ present Desolation, that many of the poor Inhabitants, unable
 “ to rebuild their ruin’d Houses, will be driven to quit the Island:
 “ And thus our Strength decays, and at the same Time the exor-
 “ bitant Power of the *French*, at our very Doors, threatens us
 “ with instant Destruction in case of a War; for their Isles are
 “ full of Men and Arms, whilst the Inhabitants of this Island
 “ grow every Day thinner, and want almost every thing necessary
 “ for their Defence.

“ BUT should a War not happen, yet the *British* Sugar
 “ Colonies will still be in Danger of being lost to the *British*
 “ Nation, unless some speedy Care be taken to save them from
 “ the Ruin now impending over them: And if they are lost,
 “ *Great Britain* will lose the Export of all the *British* Manufac-
 “ tures now taken off by the Sugar Colonies, and the whole
 “ Benefit arising from the Importation of their Product; our
 “ Navigation and Seamen must necessarily fall off and diminish;
 “ the *African* Trade, as chiefly depending on the Sugar Colo-
 “ nies, must decay; and our Sugar-Works and other Plantation-
 “ Stock and Utensils become of no Use, and thereby so much
 “ Wealth will be sunk and lost to the *British* Nation: And in
 “ that

“ that Case too, such of the Northern *British* Colonies as
 “ now court a *French* Trade and *French* Dependance, will
 “ soon be reduc’d to a Condition too wretched to be named,
 “ and an End be put to the *British* Empire in *America*.
 “ But, may God avert these Evils ! Nor are we without Hopes
 “ that the *British* Sugar Colonies may still be preserv’d, and
 “ even restor’d to their former flourishing Condition, if timely
 “ Measures be yet taken for removing the many and great Dis-
 “ advantages they now lie under in Point of Trade, and pro-
 “ per Encouragements be given them.

“ Whether a Prohibition of the Importation of all Sugar,
 “ Rum and Melasses of the Growth, Product or Manufacture of
 “ any the Plantations in *America*, which are not in the Posses-
 “ sion of, or under the Dominion of his Majesty, into the
 “ Kingdoms of *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, or any of his Majesty’s
 “ Colonies or Plantations in *America*, or any other his Majesty’s
 “ *British* Dominions, or a total Prohibition of Trade between
 “ the Northern *British* Colonies and the Foreign Sugar Colonies,
 “ or of any particular Branches of Trade ; as namely, those of
 “ Horses and Lumber, or the granting his Majesty’s Subjects
 “ of the Sugar Colonies the like Advantages in their Trade as
 “ the Subjects of the Foreign Sugar Colonies now actually have.
 “ Whether all, or any of these, or what other Measures in par-
 “ ticular may be proper and sufficient to attain the good Ends
 “ desir’d ; to wit, the saving the *British* Sugar Colonies from
 “ Ruin, and restoring them to their once flourishing State ; we
 “ presume not to say ; but humbly hope your Lordships will
 “ be pleas’d to take the Premises into Consideration, and there-
 “ upon do what to your Lordships, in your great Wisdom, shall
 “ seem fitting.

THE principal Points aim’d at in Favour of the *British* Sugar
 Colonies, as well by the late Petition, as by the present Repre-
 sentation, I take to be as follow :

- I. A Prohibition of the Importation of all Foreign Sugar,
 Rum and Melasses into any of his Majesty’s Dominions.

II. A Prohibition of the *British* Subjects supplying the Foreign Sugar Colonies with such Materials and Necessaries as tend to support and enlarge them, and more particularly with Lumber and Horses.

III. An Encouragement of a Vent of *British* Sugar, Rum, and Melasses, by permitting them to be sent directly from the *British* Colonies to all foreign Ports; where the Subjects of foreign Powers are permitted to go directly with their Produce of the like Kinds; and that, upon paying as easy Duties as Foreigners pay in the like Cases.

THE Facts alledg'd in this Representation are of themselves so notorious, that they need no Proof; and the Remedies pointed at by that Representation appear from thence to be so properly fitted to the Nature of the Case, that, perhaps, better will hardly be agreed on. And I do not doubt but you will join with me in thinking so, when you consider, in relation to the first Point, that if the *French* make their Sugar, Rum, and Melasses much cheaper than the *British* Planters can, and are at Liberty to export them, paying a Duty only of one *per Cent.*; and upon paying that Duty of one *per Cent.* are at Liberty to import them into his Majesty's Northern *American* Dominions: and the *British* Subjects cannot export their Sugar, Rum, and Melasses, and import them into our Northern Colonies, without paying a Duty of $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* in Specie; and a farther Duty of $7\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* in Cash, commonly call'd, The Plantation Duty, (which are Facts that no one will dare to deny); that the *French* must actually ingross the whole Trade of Sugar, Rum, and Melasses to the Northern *British* Colonies, since they can sell their Produce eleven *per Cent.* cheaper than the *British* Planters can: And the *French* will still have much greater Advantages over the *British* Sugar Planter, as to *Ireland*, as they can send their Produce thither directly; and the *British* Sugar Planter cannot, but must first go to *Great Britain*, unlade there, and leave a Duty of about two *per Cent.* and re-lade, and so

go to *Ireland*. Besides this, 'tis certain, that what *Muscovado* Sugars the *French* send to *Ireland*, are generally enter'd there not by the Name of *Muscovado* Sugars, as they really are, but under the Denomination of *Paneels*, which pay there a Duty only of 1 s. 10 d. per Hundred ; whereas *French Muscovadoes* pay 3 s. 10 d. per Cent. This Fraud is well known, and yet notoriously practis'd.

'TIS said by the *New England* Men, that the *British* Sugar Colonies do not make Rum and Melasses enough to supply their Wants ; and if they are debarr'd buying *French* Rum and Melasses, from whence they now make Rum themselves) they cannot carry on their *Indian* Trade and Northern Fishery : But I would be glad to know how they carry'd on those Trades during the last two Wars with the *French*, and all the while the *French* threw away their Melasses, and made not one Drop of Rum ? Did not the *British* Sugar Colonies then supply them with sufficient Quantities of Rum and Melasses for all their Occasions ? It may be said, that the Inhabitants of Northern *America* are much increased since the last Peace, and that they now employ more Hands in their *Indian* Trade and Fishery than they did before the Peace, and that consequently their Demands for Rum and Melasses are larger : Taking this for granted, 'tis as true, that all the *British* Sugar Colonies in general do now, in Time of Peace, make much more Sugar, and consequently more Rum and Melasses than they did during the War. *Antigua*, *Nevis* and *Mountserat* now make almost double the Quantity of those Species that they used to do in Time of War ; and the whole Island of *St. Christophers* is now ours ; and that Island alone makes upwards of 15,000 Hogsheads of Sugar a Year : *Barbadoes* now makes about 20,000 Hogsheads of Sugar a Year, and *Jamaica* about as many. *Barbadoes* has about 90,000 Inhabitants white and black, and could maintain and find Employ for 30,000 more, if there were proper Encouragements, tho' 'tis scarce a 40th Part as big as *Jamaica*, which yet has not as many Souls in it, tho' the latter contains above 4,000,000 Acres of Land, and the other not much above 100,000. What Quantities then of Sugar, Rum, and Melasses could not *Jamaica*, and all

the *British* Sugar Islands produce, were they fully planted? As surely they would be, were they encouraged as they ought to be, and their Rivals in the Sugar Trade prohibited from supplying his Majesty's Dominions with the very same Produce that his Majesty's own Sugar Colonies used, and can, and ought to supply them with.

BUT after all, the Truth of the Fact is, That the *New England* Men have never yet found that the *British* Sugar Colonies could not furnish them with as much Rum and Melasses as they wanted: Or, if the Case had been so, better would it have been that they should have taken Malt-Spirits from their Mother Country to carry on their Fishery, than that they should be allow'd to buy Rum and Melasses of the *Frenchman* for that Purpose, who could find no Vent for it else where (*Ireland* excepted); and therefore must have flung his Melasses away, as he used to do before this execrable Trade between his Majesty's Northern *American* Colonies and the *French* Sugar Islands was set on Foot.

I CANNOT, without Indignation, hear what is advanc'd by the Partisans of some of the Northern Colonies, and of *New England* in particular; (*viz.*) That they cannot carry on their *Indian* Trade and Fishery without *French* Rum and Melasses; and that they cannot subsist without a Trade with the *French* Sugar Colonies. 'Tis well known that they want no Rum for their *Indian* Trade, for they themselves have Laws of their own making, prohibiting under most severe Penalties the Sale of Rum to the *Indians*: And as to their Fishery, 'tis as well known that the *Old England* Men carry'd it on for many Years before the *New England* Men supplanted them in it; and that the *New England* Men also carry'd it on for many Years afterwards without the Assistance of *French* Rum and Melasses, and might still do so if they pleas'd: But Things, it seems, are now brought to that happy Pass, that that Colony, so highly valuable in their own Opinion, that high and mighty, and independant Colony (for such they affect to be esteem'd) are reduced to a Necessity of acknowledging that they depend on the *French*, and cannot
subsist

subſiſt without a *French* Trade ; a Trade which the *French*, without any Breach of Treaty, may exclude them from whenever they pleaſe. On ſuch a precarious Trade, ſuch a vile Dependance do thoſe provident *New England* Men now found their moſt valuable Branches of Trade, I mean the *Indian* Trade, and that of their Fiſhery : The latter of which ſtood ſurely on more ſure Foundations, when carry'd on by their Mother Country intirely independant of the Will and Pleaſure of the *French* Nation.

'TIS certain the Northern Colonies, and *New England* in particular, cannot ſubſiſt without a Trade with ſome Sugar Colonies ; and that as their Subſiſtance is the ſupplying of the Sugar Plantations with Flower, Biſcuit, Pipe-Staves, Fiſh and other Proviſions, the prohibiting them that Commerce would be their Ruin, as the late Mr. *Gee* well obſerv'd, in his Obſervations on the Trade and Navigation of *Great Britain* : But that Gentleman ſpoke of our Sugar Plantations, and not of the *French* Sugar Plantations ; for he made that Obſervation profeſſedly to prove that there was no Ground to fear that the *British* Northern Colonies could, by growing rich, ſet up for themſelves, and caſt off the *Engliſh* Government. What would that Gentleman have ſaid, had he liv'd to ſee thoſe Northern Colonies renouncing, in a manner, all Commerce with their *Engliſh* Brethren of the Sugar Iſlands, leaving them unſupply'd with their Northern Produce, hurrying every Thing to the *French* Sugar Iſlands, and putting their whole Dependance upon that illegal Trade, ſo apparently deſtructive to the *British* Sugar Iſlands, and prejudicial to *Great Britain* ? How doth *New England* now depend on the *British* Sugar Iſlands, or, indeed, on *Great Britain* itſelf ? The Inhabitants of that Colony have wreſted the Fiſhery out of the Hands of their Mother Country ; engroſs'd, in great meaſure, the Trade of Ship-building ; broke in on the Navigation of *Great Britain* ; ſet up Manufactures of Woollen, Linnen, Iron, Hats, Camblets ; making of Cabinets, Chairs, Tables, Chaiſes, Sedans, and what not ; all of them interfering with the Manufactures of *Great Britain* : They foreſtal the Markets with foreign Sugars ; and import into their own Colonies *Italian* Silks, *French* Silks, Druggets,

Druggets, *India* Silks and Calicoes, and *French* and *Hambrough* Linnens, and lay out the Produce of their Cargoes carry'd to *Spain*, *Portugal* and the *Streights* in foreign Manufactures, instead of bringing their Money to *Great Britain*: Whereas, on the other hand, the *British* Sugar Colonies have no one Trade or Manufacture whatever that interferes with any one Trade or Manufacture of *Great Britain*, and therefore must ever be dependant on it, and supported from thence.

I KNOW it has been said, and inculcated with much Malice, that *Barbadoes* hath set up the Refining of Sugar, and a terrible Outcry is made of the ill Consequences that must attend it, and all this without any Foundation; for there is not so much as a single Refining-house in *Barbadoes* belonging to any *British* Subject. There is, indeed, a *Frenchman*, one *Le Roy*, living in the Bridge Town in that Island, that now and then, when a Cask of Sugar in Shipping off, happens to fall into the Sea, has undertaken to boil it over again, and make the best of it for the Ship's Crew, who, in that Case, are oblig'd to make good the Damages to the Owners of the Sugars. Such an Accident may happen, perhaps, once in a Twelve-month: And this is all the Refining throughout the whole *British* Sugar Colonies, all of whom have their refined Sugars from *Great Britain*, as will appear from the Books of their Correspondents in *Great Britain*, and those of the Custom-house.

THE next Point aimed at by the *British* Sugar Colonies, is,

A Prohibition of the *British* Subjects supplying the foreign Sugar Colonies with such Materials and Necessaries as tend to support and enlarge them, and more particularly with Lumber and Horses.

UPON this Head I must observe to you, That during the last War between the Crowns of *Great Britain* and *France*, the *French* Sugar Colonies were in a very low and despicable Condition, and did not then produce Sugar sufficient for their own Consumption:

Consumption: Their Melasses they threw away, and had never then made any the least Quantity of Rum: They had then very few Sugar-Works; and the Mills they had, were carry'd about by Cattle or Water: They had no Still-houses, and were in great Want of Coppers, Coolers, Skummers, Ladles, Pots, Drips, and all other Plantation Utensils, and had very few Negroes and Horses, and the Inhabitants were very poor, and had no Money to buy what they wanted.

IN this Situation, several clandestine Traders from the *British* Colonies, knowing the Wants of the *French* Sugar Planters, and that they would part with what Sugar they made at low Prices in Exchange for Necessaries to carry on and enlarge their Sugar Works, fell into a Trade with them, and supply'd them with all Things necessary for that Purpose; and in Return, took their Sugar and Melasses, which till then was of no Value.

THE *French* Sugar Planters by these Means furnished themselves from the *British* Colonies with every Thing they wanted, and went roundly to work, and founded many new Sugar Works; which they never could have done without the Assistance of *New England*, who soon turn'd the Course of their Trade that Way, and furnished the *French* with every Thing they could, and particularly with Lumber and Horses; and *Ireland* furnished them with Beef, Pork, Herrings, and other Provisions.

THUS the good natur'd *British* Subjects nurs'd up, cherish'd and supported the *French* Sugar Colonies in their Infancy; and have continued to do so, till they are now become our Rivals, or rather Conquerors in the Sugar Trade.

'TIS amazing, that the *British* Subjects should have been thus long permitted to drive a Trade with the *French* Sugar Colonies in Violation of the Treaty of Peace and Neutrality made between the two Crowns in the Year 1686. The 4th, 5th and 6th Articles whereof run thus; (*viz.*)

ARTICLE IV.

“ IT is agreed, That both Kings shall have and retain to
 “ themselves all the Dominions, Rights and Pre-eminences in
 “ the *American* Seas, Roads, and other Waters whatsoever, in
 “ as full and ample manner as of Right belongs to them, and
 “ in such manner as they now possess the same.

ARTICLE V.

“ AND therefore the Subjects, Inhabitants, Merchants, Com-
 “ manders of Ships, Masters and Mariners of the Kingdoms, Pro-
 “ vinces, and Dominions of each King respectively, shall abstain
 “ and forbear to Trade and Fish in all the Places possess'd, or
 “ which shall be possess'd by one or the other Party in *America*,
 “ viz. The King of *Great Britain*'s Subjects shall not drive their
 “ Commerce and Trade, nor Fish in the Havens, Bays, Creeks,
 “ Roads, Shoals or Places which the most Christian King holds, or
 “ shall hereafter hold in *America*. And in like manner, the
 “ most Christian King's Subjects shall not drive their Commerce
 “ and Trade, nor Fish in the Havens, Bays, Creeks, Roads,
 “ Shoals, or Places which the King of *Great Britain* possesses, or
 “ shall hereafter possess in *America*: And if any Ship or Vessel
 “ shall be found Trading or Fishing contrary to the Tenor of
 “ this Treaty, the said Ship or Vessel, with its Lading, Proof
 “ being made thereof, shall be confiscated; nevertheless, the
 “ Party who shall find himself aggriev'd, by such Sentence or
 “ Confiscation, shall have Liberty to apply himself to the Privy
 “ Council of that King, by whose Governours or Judges the
 “ Sentence has been given against him: But 'tis always to be un-
 “ derstood that the Liberty of Navigation ought in no manner
 “ to be disturb'd, where nothing is committed against the genuine
 “ Sense of this Treaty.

ARTI-

ARTICLE VI.

" IT is also agreed, That in Case the Subjects and Inhabi-
 " tants of either of the Kings, with their Shipping (whether
 " Publick or of War, or Private and of Merchants) be forc'd
 " thro' Stress of Weather, Pursuit of Pirates and Enemies, or
 " any other urgent Necessity, for seeking of Shelter and Har-
 " bour, to retreat and enter into any of the Rivers, Creeks,
 " Bays, Havens, Roads, Ports and Shores belonging to the other
 " in *America*, they shall be received and treated there with all
 " Humanity and Kindness, and enjoy all Friendly Protection and
 " Help : And it shall be lawful for them to refresh and provide
 " themselves, at reasonable and the usual Rates, with Victuals
 " and all Things needful for the Sustenance of their Persons or
 " Reparation of their Ships, and Conveniency of their Voyage :
 " And they shall no manner of Way be detained or hindred
 " from returning out of the said Ports or Roads, but shall
 " remove and depart when and whither they please, without any
 " Let or Hindrance ; provided always that they do not break
 " Bulk, nor carry out of their Ships any Goods, exposing them
 " to Sale, nor receive any Merchandise on Board, or employ
 " themselves in Fishing, under the Penalty of Confiscation of
 " Ships and Goods, as in the foregoing Article is express'd : And
 " it is farther agreed, That whensoever the Subjects of either King
 " shall be forced to enter with their Ships into the others Ports,
 " as above-mention'd, they shall be oblig'd, at their coming in,
 " to hang out their Flag for the Colours of their Nation, and
 " give Notice of their coming by thrice firing a Cannon ; and
 " if they have no Cannon, by firing a Musket thrice : Which if
 " they shall omit to do, and yet send their Boat on Shore, they
 " shall be liable to Confiscation.

HAD these Articles been strictly observ'd after the Treaty of
Utrecht, (as till that Time they had generally been) the *French*
 had never been in a Condition to dispute the Sugar Trade with
 the *British* Sugar Colonies ; who in that Case would have in-

creased in proportion to the Increase of the Consumption of Sugar in general, which doubtless has been very great. But the *French*, ever since the Treaty of *Utrecht*, have observ'd the Treaty of 86 so far only as it tended to their real Interest ; at sometimes insisting on it, and confiscating our Ships by Colour of it ; and at other Times dispensing with it, and admitting an Import of whatever they want to support and enlarge their Sugar Plantations. And thus their Practice, in Point of Trade, is ever and anon in direct Opposition to their Treaties.

IF the Treaty of 86 has been, and continues to be thus eluded, and the *French* are thereby become Rich and Powerful in their Sugar Colonies, as in Truth they are ; Ought not the good End proposed by that Treaty, (*viz.*) a total Prohibition of Trade with the *French* Colonies in the *West-Indies* to be secured by a Law ? And is not a Prohibition of the *British* Subjects supplying the *French* Sugar Colonies, and the *Dutch* too, (for they also drive no inconsiderable Trade with our Northern Colonies for those Things they want to support and enlarge their Sugar Works) with such Materials and Necessaries as tend to support and enlarge them (as Lumber and Horses, in particular, most evidently do) now become absolutely necessary ?

TO this I have here objected, That if the Northern *British* Colonies are prohibited supplying the *French* Sugar Colonies with Lumber and Horses, those Colonies may get 'em elsewhere ; (*viz.*) that they may have Lumber from the *Mississippi* or *Canada*, and Horses from the *Dutch*, or (what will do as well) Mules from the *Spaniards* : But in Answer to this, 'tis to be consider'd, that though it may be true, that the *French* may have Timber enough growing on the Banks of the *Mississippi*, and at *St. Lawrence*, or on the Islands in or near those vast Rivers ; yet the Navigation to and from either of those Parts of the World is so dangerous and tedious too, that Lumber from thence must come prodigious dear to the *French* Sugar Planters in the *Caribbee* Islands ; Besides this, the *French* have not, at present, any Saw-Mills ; and it must be a Work of Time and of great Expence too, to erect such Mills, and many Years must necessarily pass before

before any considerable Quantity of Lumber can be sent from their Northern Colonies, which, by the way, are now but thinly Peopled in Comparison with their Sugar Colonies, which abound in Men. And if the *French* find themselves oblig'd to furnish more Hands to their Northern Colonies, (which they must necessarily do, if they propose to get Lumber from thence) they must be forc'd to spare them from their Sugar Colonies; which consequently will grow the weaker, and so be less to be fear'd by their Neighbours; and at the same Time, a Check will be thereby put to the *French* Settlements of *St. Lucia*, *Dominique* and *St. Vincents*, which they now seem to have very much at Heart.

AS to the Article of Horses, it is certain the *Dutch* have none to spare, for they themselves will not permit a Foreigner to trade with them at *Surinam* or any other of their Settlements on the Continent, unless he import there a certain Number of Horses in Proportion to the Burthen of his Vessel.

THE *Spaniards* have Mules on the Continent, but hardly more than sufficient for their own Service, and they set a very great Value on them, much more than they do on Horses: Some are now and then got from thence, but in a clandestine Way, and by Stealth; and to carry them so far up to Windward as *Martinique*, or other the *Caribbee* Islands, is extremely hazardous as well as chargeable. This the *Barbadians* know, who know the Value of them, and would gladly prefer them to the Horses of *New England*, could they get 'em upon any reasonable Terms: But so it is, that there are not now, nor have been for these 30 Years past, 6 Mules at a Time in this Island, when at the same Time there are, and generally have been not less than 6,000 Horses here.

I CANNOT but observe to you, that this Strength of Horses was a principal Reason why the *French* durst not attack *Barbadoes* in the Course of the last War. They had then very few Horses, and knew what Numbers of them the *Barbadians* had, and therefore justly dreaded to make a Descent upon an

Island that had almost as many Horses as fighting Men in it; by which Means the *Barbadians* would have been enabled to convey their Men with Ease from one Part of the Island to the other, and fight on Foot or Horseback as they thought best, while the *French* must have footed it thro' rugged Ways in a scorching Climate.

I HAVE had the Pleasure to hear many of the *French* Officers acknowledge this: But if the *French* are to be supply'd with Horses from our Northern Colonies, the Advantage we had over them in the last War, in the Superiority of our Horse, will soon be lost to us, and the Island will be lost along with it in Case of a War, and then adieu to all our other *Caribbee* Islands.

I NEED not tell you, who know the Constitution of our Island, and the State of our Militia perfectly well, that we have 500 Sugar-work Plantations with Wind-mills, and that each of those Plantations maintains, one with another, eight Horses; to which Number must be added the Horses employ'd on the lesser Plantations, and those kept by Divines, Lawyers, Physicians, Gentlemen, Merchants, Factors and Tradesmen in the several Towns of this Island, which are at least half as many more; and that every Plantation that contains 100 Acres of Land, is oblig'd to provide in the Militia a Horse and Man compleatly armed; and if 160 Acres, then 2 Horses and 2 Men; and for every 100 Acres more, another Horse and Man, besides what every Plantation sends to the Foot, (which is a Footman compleatly armed for every 20 Acres); and that every Man that has not 20 Acres of Land, must serve in the Militia in Person on Horseback, if he keeps a Horse, or otherwise on Foot: And that no Man in *Barbadoes* is excused from serving in Person in the Militia, be his Degree or Profession what it will.

IT has been farther objected against the second Point above-mention'd; That 'tis hard that any *British* Subject should be restrain'd from a free Vend of the Produce of their Labour and Industry upon *British* Soils; and I must own, in many Cases,

it

it may be so, but surely not in the present Case of the Northern Colonies, who tho' restrain'd from a Trade with the foreign Sugar Colonies for those Things that tend to support and enlarge them, will still have *British* Colonies enough to vend all their Produce in, besides an extensive Vend for them elsewhere no way prohibited.

DO they complain of a Restriction in the Vend of their Produce to the foreign Sugar Colonies only, and not remiember that the *British* Sugar Colonies are restrain'd from exporting theirs to any Part of the Universe but *Great Britain* and the *British* Northern Colonies?

RESTRICTIONS in Trade are often to the Prejudice of Particulars, but surely the Good of the Whole must be regarded before that of any particular Member; and no wise State will suffer any one of its Colonies to grow rich, and that too by a Trade carry'd on in Derogation of Solemn Treaties calculated for the Good of the Whole, to the inevitable Destruction of any other of its Colonies equally, if not more, valuable, and to the irreparable Damage of the State itself, which I take to be the present Case of our Northern and Southern Colonies.

YOU will give me Leave to make one Remark more, as to the Prohibition of the Importation of Lumber from our Northern Colonies into the *French* Colonies, which had almost slipp'd me, and that is this; That should a Prohibition of a direct Importation thereof from our Northern Colonies into the *French* Sugar Colonies be granted, it would not be of that ill Consequence to our Northern Colonies as they seem to apprehend; for they might, notwithstanding that Prohibition, carry their Lumber to any of the *Portuguese* or *Spanish* Islands in the Western Ocean, and send from thence Certificates of its being landed there; and might then sell it, or leave it there to be sold and forwarded to the *French*, who will be glad to get it even that Way, and will still find it cheaper than to fetch it from the *Mississippi* or *Canada*.

IT must be own'd that this round-about Way will be tedious and expensive. Be it so, since all the Expence will fall on the *French*, and thereby the *British* Sugar Planter will be supply'd with Lumber about 15 or 20 *per Cent.* cheaper than the *Frenchman*.

THIS Advantage, considerable as it is in itself, will, however, be much over-ballanced by that the *French* have over us in relation to the Vent of their Sugars, Rum and Melasses; which leads me to the third Point propos'd by the Representation; that is,

The encouraging a Vent of our Sugar, Rum and Melasses, by permitting them to be sent directly from our *British* Colonies to all foreign Ports, where the Subjects of foreign Powers are permitted to go directly with their Produce of the like Kinds, upon paying as easy Duties as Foreigners pay in the like Cases.

UPON this Head you will give me Leave to make a Remark or two; (*viz.*) That if two Traders deal in one and the same Commodity, and pay each of them the same prime Cost for it; and one of them can afford to carry his Goods directly, and soonest to Market, and sell them cheaper than the other can, that he that thus can carry his Goods directly, and soonest to Market, and sell cheapest, must and will engross the Market, and ruin the other Trader.

AND this is the Case between us and the *French*, with this Difference only, that the prime Cost of their Sugars in their Colonies, is much less than that of ours is in our Colonies; which Difference is occasion'd not only by the Fertility of their new Soils, where no Dung is wanting, and the Labour of one Negro will go as far as that of two in our old Plantations; but by the many Encouragements they receive from their Mother Country, and by their gainful Trade with our Northern *American* Colonies and *Ireland*, as also with the *Spanish* Ports in the *West-Indies*.

BUT

BUT taking it for granted, that the prime Costs of the *French* Sugars in their Plantations, and that of ours in our Plantations are equal, (tho' at this Time the Difference is considerable) yet as the *French* are permitted to send directly to the Ports of *Spain* Sugars of all Sorts, (except Raw and *Muscovado* Sugars) and all other the Product of their Islands in *America*, paying a Duty of one *per Cent.* only on Exportation, without first carrying them into *France*; and the *British* Sugar Colonies are oblig'd to carry all their Sugars, and all other enumerated Goods first into *Great Britain*, after paying in the Colonies where they are produced, (*Jamaica* excepted) a Duty of $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* in Specie on Exportation, before they can carry them any where else, (except to the other *British* Colonies) and are oblig'd, upon exporting them afterwards from *Great Britain*, to leave in *Great Britain* a Duty of near two *per Cent.* and are put to the Risque of a double Voyage, besides the Charge of it, which amounts to above twenty *per Cent.* more; 'tis certain that the *French* must cut us out of the Sugar Trade in the *Streights*, and the Export of our Sugars thither must be intirely lost, unless we are permitted to carry our Clay'd Sugars from our Plantations directly to foreign Markets, and upon as easy Terms as our Rivals carry theirs, for a Difference of $25\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* on Sales between two Traders dealing on the same Commodity, must, without much Dispute, enrich the one, and undo the other.

SUGARS are a pondrous Commodity, and subject to large Charges and Waste, and 'tis impossible for us to carry our Sugars directly to all foreign Markets on the Footing we now are: But were we permitted to carry our Clay'd Sugars directly to all foreign Markets where the *French* are permitted to carry theirs, and upon as easy Duties as they; such a Permission will force an Export, and the Proceeds thereof will be brought to *Great Britain*, as well as the Produce of the Fish that is carry'd from *New England* and *Newfoundland*; and the better Market the *British* Sugar Planter finds for his Clay'd Sugar, the cheaper he can afford, his *Muscovado* Sugars to the *British* Grocer and *British* Sugar Baker.

AND

AND such a Permission will increase the Quantity of *Muscovado* Sugars; for that Encouragement will enable the *British* Sugar Colonies to plant more Land; repair their old Buildings; erect new ones; buy more Slaves, Horses, Lumber, Fish, Beef, Flower, and other Plantation-Necessaries, which will draw from *Great Britain* an immense Quantity of Woollen and other Manufactures, and employ more Ships and Seamen to the Benefit of the *British* Nation than are now employ'd by the Northern Colonies, to the Benefit and Support of foreign Powers.

I MUST observe to you upon this Occasion, That the Sugars that will be produced for some Years off of those new Islands, will be all of them *Muscovadoes*; for Sugar produced off of new Lands, and great Part of the old Lands, will not turn under Clay; so that there will be no Reason to apprehend but the *British* Markets will, notwithstanding such Permission, be supply'd with Sugar in as great Plenty, and as cheap as ever; for Profit will be follow'd as long as there is a suitable Soil to plant, and Markets will be supply'd while a reasonable Advantage may be gain'd.

AND besides all this, the supporting and encouraging our Sugar Colonies (and this Permission will be no inconsiderable Support and Encouragement to them) will be the most effectual Method to encourage and secure our Northern Colonies, and render them more dependant on *Great Britain*.

I WOULD ask those Gentlemen who oppose a Vend of our Sugar, Rum and Melasses directly from our *British* Colonies to such foreign Ports as the Subjects of foreign Powers are permitted to go directly with theirs, a few Questions: Have the *French* lessen'd their Imports into *France* by the Indulgences given their Sugar Colonies? Is their Navigation, Shipping or Revenue thereby abated? Are their Factors Commissions or Merchants Profits thereby lessen'd? Are the Consumers of Sugars in the *French* Dominions taxed by an enhanced Price? Surely, No. On the contrary, the Reverse is apparent, and the *French* have

have gained an immense Treasure by their extensive Exportation of the Product of their Sugar Colonies.

TIME was, when our Island had a free Liberty of Exportation to all Nations that traded, and were in Amity with *England*; and in the Year 1651, when this loyal Island was oblig'd to surrender upon Articles to the Parliamentary Forces under the Command of Sir *George Ayscue*, one of the Articles of their Rendition, was in the Words following (*viz.*)

ARTICLE IX.

“ THAT all Port Towns and Cities under the Parliament’s Power, shall be open unto the Inhabitants of this Island in as great a Freedom of Trade as ever; and that no Companies be placed over them, nor the Commodities of this Island be engross’d into private Mens Hands; and that all Trade be free with all Nations that do Trade, and are in Amity with *England*.

THIS Island then flourish’d, and was then look’d upon as a Limb of the Common-Wealth of *England*. I mention this only to shew the Sense of the *English* Nation at that Time, in regard to the Sugar Colonies, and the happy Consequences thereof.

THE Act of Navigation, and the many Acts afterwards made, laying Imposts on the Products of the *British* Sugar Colonies, made a woful Alteration of their State, and they have ever since been declining; and the *French* are now ready to give them the *Coup de Grace*, unless our Legislature interpose.

EUROPE is not now in the same State it was when the Act of Navigation was made, and those Restrictions and Duties were impos’d on the Product of the *British* Sugar Colonies. Our Laws are not like those of the *Medes* and *Persians*, unalterable, but receive from Time to Time such Changes as the Change of Times and Face of Affairs require; and therefore I will not

doubt but a *British* Parliament, ever mindful of their Country's Good, and jealous of an encroaching, overbearing Rival, will support and revive, by proper Encouragements, their Sugar Colonies, so useful to *Great Britain*.

I AM unwilling to mention some trifling Reflections and unfair Insinuations made by the Enemies of the *British* Sugar Planters; such as those: That they are idle, luxurious, and keep too good Tables, and want to monopolize the Sugar Trade to maintain their Extravagancies. I own there are and have been in *Barbadoes*, as in all other Countries, lazy, imprudent, and expensive Men: but the general Character of a People is not surely to be taken from that of a few Particulars. Let the worst Enemy that Island has, view their Sugar Works, built with so much Strength, Neatness and Convenience, and every way fitted for the Uses intended; their Highways carry'd over Morasses, and cut thro' Mountains; their Bridges over Swamps and Gullies; and their indefatigable Labour in the Culture of their Plantations, not to be match'd, perhaps, by any other Planters upon Earth; and then charge them with Idleness if he can: And let him see their frugal Tables, cover'd mostly with salt Provisions, and Pulse, and Roots of their own raising, and condemn them of Luxury. Surely those Fish-eaters of *New England*, who thus envy, and therefore hate and slander the *British* Sugar Planter, would wish to see the jolly Yeomen of *Old England* reduc'd to Leeks and Onions, Garlick, and Wooden Shoes.

I WILL say no more on this ungrateful Subject, but give you a Calculate of the present Value of *Barbadoes*, consider'd as a Sugar Colony, drawn, I'm sure, as near the Truth as possible, and far from any Exaggeration; that the World may judge whether it deserves to be treated with that Contempt its malicious Enemies have affect'd of late to treat it with.

The CALCULATE is as follows, viz.

500 Wind-mills, at 800 <i>l.</i> each	— — —	1,400,000
Boiling-houses, Still-houses, Curing-houses, Negro-houses, Trash-houses, Smiths, Coopers and Carpenters Shops, &c. at 1200 <i>l.</i> for each Wind-mill Estate	— — —	600,000
Carts, Pots, Drips, and other Utensils, at 150 <i>l.</i> for each Wind-mill Estate	— — —	75,000
106,000 Acres of Land, with the Crops now growing thereon, at 20 <i>l.</i> per Acre	— — —	2,120,000
65,000 Negroes, at 30 <i>l.</i> per Head	— — —	1,950,000
20,000 Head of Cattle, at 10 <i>l.</i>	— — —	200,000
6,000 Horses, at 20 <i>l.</i> per Head	— — —	120,000
26 Pot-Kilns, 80 Cattle-Mills, and Works	— — —	35,000
		<hr/> 5,500,000 <hr/>

IN this Calculate, all the four Towns of the Island, and all Dwelling-houses, with their necessary Out-houses, are left out, and nothing more is brought to Account but what merely relates to the Sugar Trade; which amounts to Five Millions and a half.

IF that Trade be lost to *Barbadoes*, (as it infallible must be if 'tis not soon put on a better Foot than now it is) the two first, as also the last Article of the Calculate, will become of no Worth, the Land be of little Value, and all the rest of the Articles be reduc'd to less than one half of their Value, unless sold to the *French*, who will gladly buy them: For in that Case, all that the best Planters will have to do, will be to plant Corn, Potatoes, Eddoes, Cassada, Yams and Plantains, and raise Hogs, Sheep, Goats and Poultry for the Support of Life, and manufacture their own Cotton for Cloathing, and live as the Native *Indians*, whom they formerly drove out, used to do, and still do at *Dominique* and *St. Vincents*.

'TIS no easy Matter to compute exactly how great a Loss *Great Britain* will suffer by the Destruction of that one single Sugar Colony of *Barbadoes*, but it may be nearly guess'd at by considering the present Value of it.

AND if the Loss of the Sugar Trade to only one of the *British* Colonies will be thus great, What must the total Loss of the Sugar Trade be to all of them? And how great must the Loss of *Great Britain* be in that Case?

I AM afraid I have tired you with this long Letter; and yet I cannot forbear adding a Word or two more.

YOU will observe from the *Representation* the many Advantages the *French* Sugar Planters have over our Sugar Planters, of which I beg Leave to say, that of the Liberty they have of trading with the adjacent *Spanish* Islands, however hitherto but little taken Notice of and consider'd, is not the least. That Trade adds to their Strength as well as Riches; it employs some Hundreds of *French* Seamen, and brings Cash to them in great Plenty, in Exchange for Flower and other Goods purchas'd by them from our Northern Colonies, with their Rum and Melasses; so that they thereby turn those Products into *Spanish* Silver, which centers in Old *France*.

IS it not worth considering, why the *British* Sugar Colonies may not have the same Liberty of trading with those *Spaniards* as the *French* have? They apparently get vastly by that Trade, and why may not we do so? Let our Gains that Way be what they will, they will all center in *Great Britain*, and there increase the Capital Stock of our Mother Nation.

AFTER all, 'tis still in the Power of the *British* Parliament to preserve the *British* Empire in *America*; which, however, cannot be done without supporting their Sugar Colonies; the Loss whereof must inevitably be attended with that of our Northern Colonies: And this may effectually be done by a few Regulations

Regulations of the *American* Trade propos'd in the Representation.

THAT the *British* Sugar Colonies have thus Suffer'd and been reduc'd to a very declining and almost perishing Condition, seems to me, in a great measure, owing to their own Indolence and Remissness in not making their Grievances earlier known to the Legislature, who only can give them an adequate Relief. The Crown of *Great Britain* will never tamely suffer the Sugar Trade to be lost: Should that happen, the vast Western Ocean will, in a few Years, be overspread with *French* Ships going to and fro with the Riches of *America*, and the Produce and Manufactures of the *French* Dominions, and the Profits and Increase thereof, will all center in Old *France*.

FRANCE, (which will be thereby enabled to increase and pay their Armies and Fleets; which will never want Seamen from all Parts) and their Northern Colonies will daily grow more Wealthy and Powerful; while ours must decline, and in a very few Years come to a final Destruction.

BUT I will entertain those melancholy Thoughts no more; and henceforth firmly hope for better Things, in a full Persuasion, that the Manly Genius of the *British* Nation will once more at length arise, exert its ancient Vigour, protect and cherish its *West-India* Colonies, confound their Enemies, and assert and gloriously maintain The *British* Empire in *America*.

I am, &c.

F I N I S.

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